



Lt. Governor Skillman Wraps Up September

Summer is officially over in Indiana. But September brought the start of several new opportunities across the state. From new jobs, to new technologies, to new services for our most vulnerable citizens, last month was full of exciting new announcements.

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Hoosiers Praised for their Volunteer Service

I kicked off the month by presenting Golden Hoosier Awards to 20 of our most active senior citizens across the state. I've been presenting these awards for several years now, and I am never disappointed by the enthusiasm these seniors show for volunteerism.

In August, the New York Times published an article about Americans cutting back on volunteerism during these difficult times. A full 72 percent of Americans, a survey said, are devoting less time to volunteering and civic activity than before the economic turbulence.



Lt. Gov. Skillman and recipients of the Golden Hoosier Award pose for a group photo.

But the group of Golden Hoosiers seems to be the exception to the rule. Pride is not a strong enough word to describe how I feel when I see Hoosiers going the extra mile

when their neighbors are in their greatest time of need.

Two Southern Indiana Companies Announce Plans for Growth

It was a treat last month to return to my home of Lawrence County for a day to celebrate great news on two fronts. First, I broke ground with Geo-Flo to expand their company that creates green jobs by manufacturing geothermal equipment. Later that day, I joined local economic development officials to announce an expansion of SAIC. This, their third business expansion in the last twelve months, will create dozens of jobs at the former Visteon plant in Bedford.



Lt. Gov. Skillman talks with a New Castle Chamber member. The Lt. Gov. was also New Castle Chamber's featured speaker for September.

I also had the pleasure of speaking to the Linton-Stockton Chamber of Commerce near Goosepond. These days, each community across Indiana is finding a niche for economic development. Focusing on local tourism is an excellent strategy for Linton. With resources like the Goose Pond FWA and Shakamak State Park, travelers who are looking for good deals and high value will find it in and around the area.

New Technology Initiatives Strengthen Communities

In September, I also was able to take part in two technology announcements that underscored Indiana's standing as a leader in telecommunications. In 2005, Indiana deregulated the industry, allowing private enterprise to more easily bring high speed Internet to the most rural parts of the state.

That was on display in Newpoint, where we launched Bring IT Home Indiana - Decatur County. The new initiative brought an Internet hotspot to the community center, where residents can access high speed Internet for free. Also, young residents will teach kids and seniors how to use computers.

Also, at the Statehouse, I participated in the launch of Discovery Education On-Demand. This first-in-the-nation program provides educational television programming on-demand to Comcast cable subscribers. The content is specifically designed to compliment what Indiana students are learning in the classroom.

Indiana Makes Changes to Homelessness Program

Finally, we closed the month by announcing a fundamental change in the way Indiana delivers services to the homeless. Using federal funds, Indiana is launching an innovative program that assesses each person who enters the homeless system and addresses their barrier to permanent housing.

Going forward, the state will help local shelters address the underlying reasons why people are homeless, not just put a band-aid on the problem by providing quick housing. For example, a single parent might receive help finding day care for her children so she can hold down a job and become self-sufficient. For more on the new program, visit www.in.gov/ihcda.



Lt. Gov. Skillman announces the state's new plan to deliver services to the homeless in South Bend.

Becky Skillman

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